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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A composition comprising a charge tag attached to a terminal end of a nucleic acid molecule, said charge tag comprising a phosphate group and a positively charged moiety.
2. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag further comprises a dye.
3. (original) The composition of Claim 2, wherein said dye is positioned between said nucleic acid and said positively charged moiety.
4. (original) The composition of Claim 2, wherein said positively charged moiety is positioned between said nucleic acid and said dye.
5. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag further comprises a second positively charged moiety.
6. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag has a net positive charge of 1 at pH 6-10.
7. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag has a net positive charge of 2 at pH 6-10.
8. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag further comprises one or more nucleotides.
9. (original) The composition of Claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a sequence complementary to a target nucleic acid, wherein said one or more nucleotides of said charge tag are not complementary to said target nucleic acid.

10. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a first portion complementary to a target nucleic acid and a second portion that is not complementary to said target nucleic acid, wherein said second portion comprises said terminal end.

11. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid and said charge tag have a combined net neutral charge and wherein said charge tag has a net positive charge.

12. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid and said charge tag have a combined net negative charge and wherein said charge tag has a net positive charge.

13. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag contains a primary amine.

14. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag contains a secondary amine.

15. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag contains a tertiary amine.

16. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag contains an ammonium group.

17. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag further comprises a positively charged phosphoramidite.

18. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said charge tag further comprises a neutral phosphoramidite.

19. (original) A composition comprising a positively charged phosphoramidite.

20. (original) The composition of Claim 19, wherein said phosphoramidite comprises a primary amine group.

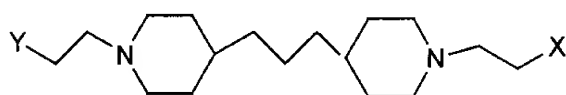
21. (original) The composition of Claim 19, wherein said phosphoramidite comprises a secondary amine group.

22. (original) The composition of Claim 19, wherein said phosphoramidite comprises a tertiary amine group.

23. (original) The composition of Claim 19, wherein said phosphoramidite comprises an ammonium group.

24. (original) The composition of Claim 19, wherein said phosphoramidite has a net positive charge of one.

25. (original) The composition of Claim 19, wherein said phosphoramidite has the structure:



wherein, X is a reactive phosphate group and Y is a protected hydroxyl group.

26. (original) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule comprising a positively charged phosphoramidite.

27. (original) A composition comprising a charge tag attached to a terminal end of a nucleic acid molecule, said charge tag comprising a positively charged phosphoramidite.

28. (original) The composition of Claim 27, wherein said positively charged phosphoramite comprise an amine group, wherein said amine group is not further attached to another molecule.

✓
29-37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) A composition comprising a fluorescent dye directly bonded to a phosphate group, wherein said phosphate group is directly bonded to an amine group. ~~The composition of Claim 37, wherein said composition comprises a charge tag, and wherein said fluorescent dye is contained within said charge tag.~~

39. The composition of Claim ~~37~~38, wherein said fluorescent dye comprises Cy3.

40. (original) A mixture comprising a plurality of oligonucleotides, each oligonucleotide attached to a different charge tag, each of said charge tags comprising a phosphate group and a positively charged moiety.

41. (original) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein said plurality of oligonucleotides comprises four or more oligonucleotides, each attached to a different charge tag.

42. (original) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein said plurality of oligonucleotides comprises ten or more oligonucleotides, each attached to a different charge tag.

43. (original) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein said plurality of oligonucleotides comprises twenty or more oligonucleotides, each attached to a different charge tag.

44. (original) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein said plurality of oligonucleotides comprises fifty or more oligonucleotides, each attached to a different charge tag.

45. (original) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein said charge tags comprise a dye.

46. (original) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein said charge tags comprise a second positively charged moiety.

47. (original) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein said charge tags further comprise one or more nucleotides.

48. (original) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein each of said oligonucleotides attached to a charge tag have a combined net neutral charge and wherein said charge tag has a net positive charge.

49. (renumbered from a duplicate original claim 48) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein each of said oligonucleotides attached to a charge tag have a combined net negative charge and wherein said charge tag has a net positive charge.

50. (renumbered from original claim 49) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein said charge tags comprise a positively charged phosphoramidite.

51. (renumbered from original claim 50) The mixture of Claim 40, wherein said charge tags comprise a neutral phosphoramidite.

51-85. (canceled)